

Fashions From Three Centers

PARIS FASHIONS.

BY MADAME PARQUIN.

Paris, May 4.—In Paris the costume of the moment is essentially oriental in out, the wide kimono sleeves made all in one with the bodice, as well as the short waist and plain skirt, tending to produce a curious effect when seen in large numbers. All the new colors carry out the same idea, the blues and greens being those which have become so familiar in the case of Japanese embroideries, while the whole gamut of new browns, which shade from the palest biscuit to maroon, are especially effective when produced in soft Japanese silks, as well as Tussore and Liberty satin. Natural colored Tussore silk is undoubtedly the material which is enjoying the largest measure of popularity at the present moment, the manufacturers being scarcely able to cope with the many demands and simple gowns of this description—the bodice and sleeves outlined with Japanese embroidery in three or four shades of blue, as well as touches of black and gold—represent some of the smartest creations of the season. Striped Tussore is likewise greatly in demand, and Tussore colored cloth or Liberty satin trimmed with touches of lapis lazuli blue taffetas or Empire green form the basis of charming models.

Other colors may make their fascinations manifest and their success secure, but the greens nearly always triumph in the long run as spring's favorite choice. We are now revelling with more than usual favor in many types of green, from the pale shade known as apple to the dark one that is reminiscent of glossy ivy leaves. Between the two poles there is the new dye called Chartreuse de Tarragon, that is certain of a welcome, particularly when it is called upon to materialize in taffetas or cloth a big slip-over cloak, for race-meeting wear, of the form of maroon and grape, a hue with as much citron in it as actual green. No smart dress displays only one color and happily the new dyes are amenable to an admixture of shades; indeed, they bestir the introduction of another to show up their own beauty. A gown of fruit-red or grenat coloring is beautified by a collar and elbow cuffs and by buttons covered with mouse-gray velvet. I cherish in my mind the vision of a toilette of sand brown Tussore, to which bands of smoke satin overlaid with brown lace and topaz cabochon buttons appertain. With the picturesque gowns that are made for "occasions" in the Josephine and Charlotte Corday manner, with high-waisted and kerchief effects, the most pictorial-looking millinery will be worn. There is a hat, appropriately named d'Artagnan, a mass of feathers waving above and below a brim of the most piquant and graceful outline, that is typical of what we are to accept, for no one can doubt the generally becoming attributes of this model and others of its type.

Baistie petticoats look charmingly fresh and dainty for morning wear, with their scalloped flounces, finished with button-hole stitch, and the birdseye spot pattern is the favorite one, in blue, cherry and pale green shades. White cambric ones, with lace, are to be modish for all occasions. Newly-discovered fascinations in pretty odds and ends are the lace blouses and coats decked with colored lace motifs. I can assure those who are dubious as to the beauty of such a melange that my first acquaintance with a shirt of white baby gypure, over-spread about the yoke with butterflies or orchard mauve lace, resulted in an immediate surrender to its charms. Feather boas are once more being adopted by the modern elegants, the boas being produced in two shades, of which the favorite combinations are pink and brown and mauve and brown, the gradations of color being so subtle as to be barely distinguishable. Long scarfs of net applique with chains of leaves and flowers in faded shades of taffetas are likewise to be seen, the net being of a pale tulle or a definite sand color, while the flowers are being produced in soft pinks and greens.

Ribbon has again attained an almost unprecedented popularity and wide, six-inch taffeta ribbon is being used in the form of thick scallops entirely encircling the crown and covering the brim of the hats. With saffron-colored or pale green straw hats the ribbon ruche has a particularly effective appearance, and seems to have entirely captivated the fancy of the women of today, a knot of pink roses being often introduced in the side or front of the hat.

For girls' wear marquerites are the flowers which are met with all about them at the present moment. The marquerites are of mammoth size, examples in black velvets with golden centers being mixed with the pure white marquerites, while in some cases the flowers—produced in no fewer than four or five pale shades, such as a primrose, lavender, pale pink, blue or one or other of the new soft tones of brown—are either massed at the back of the hat, or encircle the crown in the form of a wreath.

Feathers are used ad infinitum in the new scheme of modern millinery, but the new fluffy feathers which have almost the appearance of fronds of feathery moss, carefully separated, and represent a kind of compromise between marabout and the ostrich feather proper, are undoubtedly first in point of popularity. An alliance of mauve and blue is the combination of color which is most approved of in this connection, the feathers being often employed to entirely encircle the crown of the hat, with little knots of pale pink moss rosebuds nestling in fronds all round.

The lace neckties that are being sold for morning wear in the bouclé are beautiful enough for full dress evening toilettes and epitomize grace in its highest degree of culture. In the case of one exquisite specimen over a dress of pale blue lavender bishop's lawn, the sleeves of which are tied at the wrists quite after the episcopal manner with bands of purple ribbon, there is a coat of felle tinter lace defined about the shoulders with braces of purple velvet overlaid with cabochon amethysts. Little velvet ribbon strings hang down in front and are threaded through amethyst beads.

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NEW YORK FASHIONS.

BY EDITH RAYMOND.

New York, May 4.—The season is one not soon to be forgotten by any one with a whit of interest in fashions. The kimono sleeve, ditched from the negligee whose name it keeps, for coats and bodices of many classes is the most striking characteristic. It brought with it several other pretty novelties, such as, for instance, the lace filled sleeve—and was followed hard after by the mandarin armhole. The mandarin armhole itself is enough for one season's developments. It is largely responsible for the host of sleeveless coats of cloth, lace or silk whose tribe is daily increasing.

Hand embroidery and elaborate hand work of all kinds is still considered the smartest finish to almost every style of dress, but as all hand sewing naturally increases the expense of a gown, embroidery is decidedly out of favor at the moment, and this makes hand work all the more popular. Even sheer and delicate fabrics are now embroidered in decorative style. Some of the most charming robes of this spring are in chiffon, the bodice literally covered with fine embroidery. Naturally it requires an expert's hand to do this work well, but the result quite justifies the expenditure upon the gown. Embroidery has brought back the vogue of the chiffon dress, for at one time there was danger of a plain colored chiffon being rather too simple for a debutante or school girl. Incidentally, embroidery will often give character to one of those exquisitely pale shades that are so pretty but so ineffective. One frock seen recently was quite made by its embroidery. This model was a delicately beautiful shade of salmon pink laid over exactly the same tone of silk underslip. The collar and deep vest were of cream colored lace, the sleeves of the latter being sewed back over the chiffon in front and down the length of the narrow V-shaped yoke in the back.

The bodice bloused slightly both front and back, and over the high empire belt was embroidered in close design in two shades of salmon. Bretelles of the chiffon were brought well out on the shoulder, so that the waist gave the effect of being a part of the sleeves. Where the material fell down over the lace under sleeves the chiffon was bordered with liberty satin like that of which the girdle was formed. The only other trimming on the dress consisted of three or four inch bands of silk laid about the skirt and the tucks which held the material in below the girdle and gave the necessary flare when opened up just below the knees. There is a little embroidery used on any of the skirts this year, for they require little, if any, elaboration. On the waists of the gowns, however, embroidery and lace and trimmings of all kinds run riot. The so-called jumper bodices, whether in cloth, silk, linen or rajah, are embroidered or braided in gold and silver, the latter being employed in a number of the handsome cloth costumes. Silk and rajah are both worked in one or more tones of embroidery silk, while the linens are all kept on the one shade.

Perhaps the most effective use of embroidery is upon the little bolero and pony coats that are so smart at the moment. Many of these jackets are so tiny that it is impossible to put any additional trimming on them, so that their adornment consists of the embroidery worked directly upon the material.

Lace coats and wraps of all sorts and varieties continue to be as popular as ever, in fact seem to have taken a new lease of life this spring, and are appearing among the more recent French importations. Made up over a chiffon foundation, a three-quarter, half-fitted jacket of blue lace gives a most effective finish to a black and white silk or chiffon gown, and will look well with almost any afternoon dress. The robe is, as a rule, made up for the coat, in which case the lace wrap is attached to and made in one piece with the dress, but if it is desired to have the lace more generally useful and to be worn with a number of frocks then it will look just as well separate from the costume.

IS EXERCISE A MISTAKE?

London, April 13.—High authorities have recently contended that systematic exercise is a mistake—being the view that the muscular work performed during the ordinary daily round is enough to keep the body in good condition.

Eugene Sandow, the "strong man," has written a letter on the subject, in which he says:

"Emphatically exercise is not a mistake. The statement that women who take scarcely any exercise are allotted by life insurance companies two or three more years of life than men, ignores the fact that the chances for long life do not depend solely upon good health.

"Occupation plays a most important part in what insurance companies designate 'the expectation of life.' It is the more hazardous nature of men's occupations, together with the anxieties and wear and tear which breed winning entails, that give to women their advantage in the 'expectation of life' tables.

"The statement that good health is really dependent upon the efficient working of the internal organs, not the muscular system, is a mistake. The same internal organs consist very largely of muscle, and are dependent upon muscular action for their ability to perform any functions at all.

"Indeed, the most important object of scientific training is to develop the muscles of the internal organs. I go further and positively state, as the result of my experience confirmed by the opinions of hundreds of medical men with whom on various occasions I have had the opportunity of comparing notes, that properly directed systematic exercise is not merely beneficial to the internal organs, but is the only known means of developing them, and restoring them to a healthy condition when through one cause or another they have become weakened and inactive.

"Sports and games are not systematic exercise, certainly not scientific system. They often do more harm than good, because the unfit take part in them and overstrain themselves, and the fit, by following some one form of athletics to excess, overdevelop certain sets of muscles to the detriment of others.

"I quite agree that what will interest the greatest number of individuals is whether exercise will make them more fit for their daily occupations, and for intellectual work generally. Many men and many women have the brain quality which would insure greatness if supported by a bodily strength commensurate to the food requirements of the mental organ. Scientific physical

LONDON FASHIONS.

BY MAY DAWSON.

London, May 4.—The exceptionally fine weather experienced of late has induced balloonists to venture forth at an earlier date than usual, and the season for this new sport bids fair to be an exceptionally good one.

Only a few years ago a balloon trip was regarded as a foolhardy. Now it is looked upon as an amusing hobby. Since Mrs. Hild Nicoll first ventured up on "The City of York" balloon, many ladies having followed her example.

It is obvious, however, that the picture hat and long skirt of Mayfair are hardly suitable for aerial flight, and the West End tailors are turning their attention to the serious question of meeting the dress demands of the lady balloonist.

"The most practical dress for a lady balloonist," said the manager of Messrs. Burberry, in an interview, "should be made of gabardine, slimmer, or, for the coldest weather, loden, which is a particularly thick yet light woven cloth worn by the Alpine guides. 'The fashionable color is a green with a slight ruddy brown tinge. The coat is worn short and lined with fleece or silk, with two breast pockets, two cross pockets, and two hand-rests for the purpose of keeping the hands warm.

"The skirt is an adjustable one, which means that it can be drawn up by invisible cords, which by forming a pleat half way down, enables the wearer to get out or in the car with great facility, while it can be let down while traveling to keep the feet warm. 'Over the coat comes a 'slip-on' waister, proof lined with either fleece, silk, fur or wool. A tailor-made shirt of opal crepe should be worn beneath, with a broad belt of the same material as the coat or skirt.

"We are introducing a special ballooning cap made of a fine opal crepe in the very palest shade of green, which is not damaged by the rain. It is in the jelly-bag shape, the end being fastened down on the right side by a quilt. An opal silk veil which is woven in colored stripes should also be worn with the costume, shading from the green of the ballooning cap, to the ruddy shade in the coat and skirt. Canadian mittens are made of the same material as the skirt and shirt. Naturally it is possible to expend almost any amount upon a lace wrap, the cost depending entirely upon the quality of the lace employed, and there are some of these coats that are very beautiful and worth the purchasing, if only in view of the investment.

A white lace coat, for example, can be worn with so many different styles of dress and trims any gown so effectively that even the most expensive varieties may save money in the end and, of course, it is the same thing with the black coats, although white can be used for more elaborate wear. A few of these lace wraps are fashioned from long strips or insertions of lace joined together by bands of chiffon or net. In this way the handsome lace need never be cut, as net can be used whenever it is necessary to fit the coat to the figure.

I noticed lately just a few short tailored suits of material in dark colorings—navy, brown and black, with hair-line stripes of white at half-inch intervals, that produced such a distinct effect that they are bound to be copied. Altogether different from the fancy stripes, dark colors on white ground, which promise to be very much overdone, these costumes were especially chic and suited their wearers admirably.

Without any trimming effect outside of their buttons and finishings these suits were made with pleated skirts, and the semi-fitted coats that came in with the "Prince Chap" modes. Shirts of these and other tailored suits are quite as short as were those of last winter, and footwear is even trimmer and prettier since low shoes and matching hosiery are now the rule.

Light colored shoes of the new golden brown shade, tans and grays, are now very much in evidence. Smart tailored gowns are worn, though with the more elaborate toilettes of the older women their hats correspond.

Silk tailor-mades of a similar sort, with grounds of white or color, striped with grounds in contrasting lines, have been so smartly introduced that they are bound to be very fashionable during the coming months.

They are made in both tussore and smoothly-woven silk and, while makers are making up many elaborate suits of the three-piece order, the simpler coat and skirt tailored modes are reckoned quite as smart if not more so.

Plain velvets of the black or dark brown striped patterns constitute a majority of the more pretentious costumes seen, and narrow black and white stripes are most favored. These are made up over white linings, as are almost all velvets of whatever color and shade, and in many ways. Buttons galore as well as small dangling ornaments are seen on nearly every frock that is intended for dress wear. Little cords appear to strap the buttons together, or make-believe buttonholes are used to carry out the effect.

Amateur dressmakers who think they can take out the sleeves from a last year's bodice and finish the armhole in today's style, are making a mistake. It wants a genius to shape the armhole of a last year's fitted bodice in present fashion. Sometimes the outside is finished separately from the lining. A bodice with a short sleeve cut after a new pattern is better than a sleeveless one that is not of the right cut.

exercise would provide this certainly and easily. The instances within my own knowledge of men in nearly every one of what are called the learned vocations who have comparative failures until the adoption of exercise enabled them to develop their mental abilities, and who are today among the leaders of their various professions, would undoubtedly surprise the world if such lists could be given.

"As to the argument that some people go along very happily without exercise, so do some without any bank balance. Scientific exercise provides man and woman with the reserve of health and strength. They may have no apparent need of this reserve today, but we never know when the call for it may arise.

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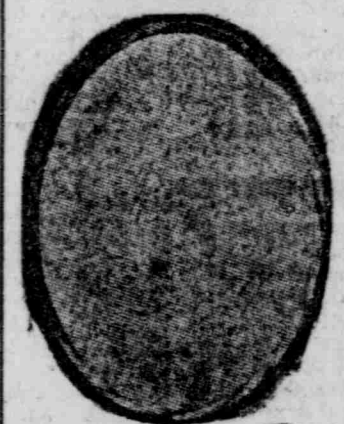
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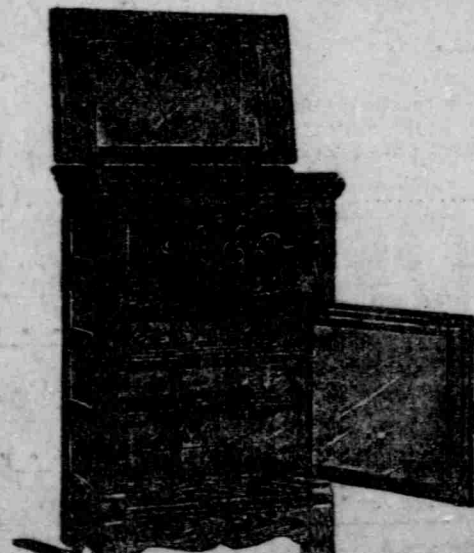
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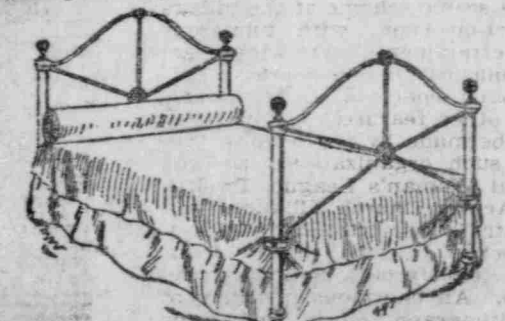
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